

(813)

SELECTIONS
FROM THE
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE
PUNJAB, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH,

AND THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES.

From the 8th to the 16th of December, 1868.

THE *Rohilkund Ukhbar*, of the 21st of November, refers to the report that the people of Bokhara are rebelling against the Russians.

What is called "Fresh News from Cabul" is given, relating to the plunder of some Rs. 9,000, &c., the property of Dhulput Rao, banker, at Chumbul. It is said that when the complaint reached the Ameer, "the Ameer Sahib ordered the people of Kokee Khail, Adhum Khail, Kamur Khail," &c., &c., "to produce the criminals at once, and to send them with the plundered property to him, otherwise they would be severely dealt with. The result was, that in three days the property was produced, but the cash was not sent, owing to the thief in whose possession it was having ran away; but one Hyder Afreedee went towards the boundary of Chumbul, found the thief, and when he would not give the property up, killed him."

The intention of Ameer Shere Ali Khan to visit Peshawur is mentioned. It is said that the Ameer's camp had reached Jellalabad, but that "the news of Abdul Rhyman Khan, with 50,000 men, having arrived at Sufaid Khotul, Sooruk Kind, and Hulka Gab, and his intention of falling upon Cabul, and

killing at night the Ameer's troops, was sent from Tucktapol, and he determined to postpone his visit to Peshawur."

The *Noor-ool Ubsar* is quoted, to the effect that "the Chinese are very proud and haughty, as a paper published in that country mentions them as looking upon Europeans as fiends of a foreign country; but now that their pride has been a little humbled by so many defeats, they are willing to change their opinion, and modify the appellation;" &c., &c. The writer considers the pride and prejudice of the Chinese so great, that they "consider themselves superior to all else on earth; although at the time when the English troops attacked them, and drove them to the very walls of the royal palace, the king, for fear of them, trembled like a leaf."

The present system of delivering letters by the aid of Post-office officials, to the various villages, for which the recipients of letters have to pay so much per mile, according to the distance from the stations, is complained of; as it is said that the people suffer great inconvenience and loss, in consequence of letters being detained until the amount is paid.

The Talooqdars of Ahmedabad are said to be so much in debt that their *sunnuds* (certificates) entitling them to their lands have been attached by the Court, and kept in Court until they are free of debt.

The Maharajah of Rewah is said to have had it proclaimed that any person may come into his territories and reside there, free of taxation; also, that those who come in for trading purposes, will be free.

The *Mujm-ool Bharain*, of the 22nd of November; the *Kaleid Ummed*, of the 14th, the same paper of the 21st, the *Unjumun Hind*, of the 21st, and the *Karnama Hind*, of the 23rd, do not contain anything that demands particular notice.

The *Sholatoon*, of the 24th of November, referring to the alleged bribery case at Hyderabad, says, that "after enquiry, it

was proved by the confessions (or statements) of Moulvie Ahmed Ali Khan, Moulvie Azim-ood-Deen Bokara, and Moulvie Jumal-ood-Deen Madrasee, servants of the Deccan Government, that all the people used to take bribes, and that they also took them. The Nawab is said to have laughed very much at this, and ordered that some plan be quickly resorted to, and so facts are being taken down. The Nawab-ool-Moolk, suspects that all the officials of the Courts take bribes; but some of them, such as Mussoolla Khan, Sahib Nazim, &c., &c., are not suspected, as they will not even accept a feast from any one."

The *Nusseem Jounpoor*, of the 24th of November, does not require particular notice.

The *Ukml-ool Ukhbar*, of the 25th of November, notices the publication of the orders of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, and expression of regret at the death of Her Highness the Begum of Bhopal; &c., &c.

The *Oudh Ukhbar*, of the 24th of November, after some matter of little or no importance, mentions that Brijis Kadir has left Calcutta, and proceeded to Central India. The writer adds, that if this be the case, the search for him will be difficult. The editor remarks, that "he is very anxious to learn who this Brijis Kadir is; if he is intended to represent the son of Huzrut Mahul Sahiba, it is well known that that person is sheltered in Nepaul; and it is not likely that he has been to Calcutta, but if he had gone there, all the newspapers from Calcutta to England would have proclaimed the fact. If it be said that he went there on the sly, then we ask what necessity was there for doing so? And if it could be proved that he went to Calcutta, we should then doubt his having gone to Central India; for there is but one Government criminal (or rebel) of that name who is worth looking after, nor is the name such as any but a Prince would own. In the family of Bahadoor Shah, (ex-King of Delhi) there is no Prince of that name;" &c., &c. The writer is of opinion that

"the *Oordoo Delhi Gazette* has been misled or deceived by travellers, as thieves deceive people; but we are astonished to find such a wise editor publish such news on the mere statement of a traveller;" &c., &c.

"It is stated that the Rajah of Doomraon, who for some years gave up his estate and its affairs, and went to Adjoodiajee, has come to Benares: his son, to whom the estate was left, is supposed to be coming with great pomp and display to meet his father. The Maharajah Khashi Naraish has come from Ramnuggur to Benares, and has ordered his people to make preparations for the reception of the above Rajahs."

The *Nujm-ool Ukhbar*, of the 25th of November, after extracts from English papers, &c., notices that the Kuzilbashee force has been ordered to be ready for war with Turkistan, &c., &c. The report of Abdul Rhyman's intention to come to Cabul is also noticed; it is said that this news astonished the Ameer of Cabul, who ordered his Sirdars to march and meet the enemy, and prevent him from advancing. Rebellion, disturbances, &c., are said to be rife; and although Azim Khan and Abdul Rhyman Khan are wandering about in great distress, still they are not neglectful of schemes and plans; "so long as they have life they will not allow Shere Ali to remain quiet. We shall see when this is settled. The envy and ambition of such people have ruined the country, and the people are without cause plunged into misfortune and sorrow."

The *Oordoo Delhi Gazette*, of the 28th of November, and the *Gwalior Gazette*, of the 15th, do not require particular notice. The latter paper notices a Durbar held at Gwalior, at which the Political Agent is said to have been present; and who, after looking at the gifts offered, duly returned them.

The *Allygurh Institute Gazette*, of the 27th of November, contains the usual amount of reading, in the English and

Oordoo character. An "interesting correspondence" is published, on "the Court language" of these (the North-Western) Provinces, which has taken place between the Allahabad Institute and the Life Honorary Secretary to the Allypore Scientific Society. The argument, as far as it goes, is for and against the use of the Persian character in Her Majesty's Courts of Justice in India, and the substitution of a more suitable character; but Moulvie Syud Ahmed Khan cannot give his full opinion until the end of December; or promises to do so in January next, if "affairs connected with his proposed journey to Europe do not entirely occupy his time."

The *Julwatoor*, of the 27th of November, notices that the state of affairs in the Bonair and Swat countries remains as it was. "The Government orders its troops by marches; and in Swat and Bonair, too, the forces are increasing: it is not known what are their intentions;" &c., &c.

It is said that Government has resolved to press upon the officers of the Educational Department the necessity for their passing an examination in Persian and Oordoo within two years of the order, and denying promotion to those who do not pass the test.

The *Muir Gazette*, of the 27th of November, does not require particular notice.

The *Malwa Ukhbar*, of the 25th of November, after extracts from other papers, notices that a rebel named Rugho Nath Singh has been captured at Chuthurpoor, but that his case is not yet finished or complete. The writer goes on to say, that this rebel has had the names of Government servants and those of the Chuthurpoor State written as those "who used to feed him and from whom he received pay; at least, the names of the people the Political Agent trusted he has handed up;" &c., &c. It is also said that his statement is not made public, but that the *Sahib* (European officer) 'takes it himself; for what reason is not known, and it should be done in public. After the

capture of this rebel, his father, who is also a rebel, gave himself up, and his statement is taken in the same way ;" &c. The writer goes on to say that the rebels have sent a letter to the Political Agent, suggesting that Rugho Nath Singh be set free, as he is faultless and no rebel ; &c., &c. ; and, further, that no one has yet received any reward ; that the spy is worthy of reward, but that instead of reward he is still in confinement ; that it is not known why the *Sahib* (Political Agent) has punished him ; &c., &c.

The next article concerns a temple at Pundhurpoor, and is headed "Government Interference." It is said that an annual gathering takes place at this temple, and in consequence of the entrance doors being narrow, those who assemble are much troubled ; to obviate which, the authorities gave orders to the effect that the doors should be widened : the people took no notice of this order, and the Magistrate then informed them that a certain time would be allowed them to obey the order, and if it was not done within that time, they would be punished in accordance with the Penal Code. This even was not heeded ; and after some time they were seized, the case investigated, and the people ordered to pay a fine of Rs. 3,200, and return to their homes ; which they did ; but they appealed at Sholapoor, upon the grounds that force had been used in a religious matter. The Agent and Magistrate of Sholapoor ordered the fines to be remitted.

The *Moofeed-ool-Anam*, of the 26th of November, notices that in the case of Independent States, although there are frequent complaints made year after year, the Government do not adopt any steps to prevent oppression and mismanagement, and the same old systems prevail. The Political Agents pass orders with their hands tied, and although they do not approve of it, they are unable to prevent it ; &c., &c. The writer proceeds to say that Colonel Keatinge's report of Rajpootana does not furnish the kind of information which Colonel Eden before his demise intended to do ; &c., &c. He

goes on to say that the Rajpeotana country is larger than Ireland, and the population numbers one crore ; &c., &c. The remainder of the article is made up of extracts from the report above mentioned.

The *Koh-i-Noor*, of the 28th of November, does not require particular notice.

The *Zea-ool Ukhbar*, of the 1st of December, publishes the following :—“ The Ameer Shere Ali Khan is now-a-days very prosperous and comfortable ; day and night he is energetically employed in looking after the management of his country, and he corresponds regularly with Russia and Persia. The Ameer Shere Ali Khan has, perhaps for certain reasons, written to them, and we are sure that the profit or reward of it will soon be made clear. It is learned from a trustworthy source that he corresponds privately with the Akhoond of Swat, who, although he is poor, is wise, and in the eyes of all is great and respected. It is also well known that Feroze Shah, who was at Cabul, has gone to Cashmere.”

This paper also remarks, that he has seen in some paper that “ in regard to the case of the late Maharajah of Mysore, a title is about to be given. In his life-time, there was a very long and wide title given him ; now let us see what the title is to be. If it comes from the news-writer, he has the title of *Lelut* (borrowing and never paying), because the Maharajah took in newspapers for two years from all, but never paid for them.”

Under the heading “ Jeypoor ; ” a correspondent of this paper tells a story of how, “ some time ago, the Chief of some State under the Jeypoor Government died childless, and the *Omrao* of that place, without the sanction of the Jeypoor Chief, placed as his successor a person who was a distant relation of the deceased. The Jeypoor Rajah was much displeased with the *Omrao* for this, and it was resolved to put him aside ; and another distant connection was anxious to be placed on the *guddee*. The *Ranees* (wives) of the deceased

consented to this arrangement; but there is a custom in that State which renders it necessary for the head Chief to visit the person for the ceremony of condolence, taking a present from him; and the proper successor to the Chief could not furnish the present, while the one who had been placed had promised two lakhs of rupees" (£20,000); &c., &c. The story concludes with the statement that two lakhs in cash was too tempting an offer to be refused; and the Rajah sanctioned the installation of the monied man and did not look to the claims of the rightful heir, or to his rank and dignity. The editor adds, that there is a true saying, to the effect that "wealth placed over steel will soften it;" but that he is doubtful in the present case, because there is something unlikely in snatching away the rights of a *musnud* for two lakhs. "Perhaps," he adds, "there is some reason for this; but if it is really the case, as stated, the owner and the State are entitled to pity; and we are sure that if the rightful owner seeks redress, the Government will give it to him."

The *Sadiq-ool Ukhbar*, of the 14th of November, the same paper of the 21st, the *Rahnoomai Punjab*, of the 27th, and the *Unjuman Hind*, of the 28th, do not require particular notice.

The *Ukhbar Alum*, of the 26th of November, opens with a letter from a correspondent, on "Bribery", as follows:—"On reading in the *Ukhbar Alum* of the 29th October the questions and answers on bribery, the fact appears to be this,—that everybody thinks and acts according to his means; and generally the people who take bribes do not fear God, nor a bad name, nor anything; they think that whatever they can get will be useful to them; and, in the garb of shamelessness, do as they please. Some are such, that although they are worthy men, and fear God in a way, the necessity for money has led to their accepting bribes, which has become a habit with them; some receive bribes without reason, owing to the carelessness or indifference of the authorities under whom they work; and a good name, promotion, or reduction, all rest with the authorities of the district. The chief officer

does not know anything; while the district officer minds all that the native officials, chuprassees, &c., tell him. Enough; the Tehseeldars have to pay Rs. 50 or Rs. 60 per month to the native officials as *nuzzurana*;" &c., &c. The writer proceeds to say:—"We have often seen and heard that letters are sent from the native officials to the Tehseeldars for ghee, goats, wood, chaff, &c., &c.; some under the pretence that there is to be a marriage; in other cases, under the pretence that they cannot get them good elsewhere;" &c., &c. The writer goes on to say, that whenever a civilian goes into camp, on a tour through the district, even then, after receiving full pay, they (the native officials) are not satisfied; and the coaxing that goes on with each *syce* (groom) and grass-cutter is such, that "God protect us from it. This is a fair statement, and true, that once a grass-cutter of a Deputy Collector abused a Tehseeldar, and then went to his master, the Deputy Sahib, and complained; the gentleman grew angry, and said things which ought not to have been said to the Tehseeldar. In justice, therefore, we say, that if Tehseeldars were not to take bribes, and give the dogs of the threshold, leave honour aside, one appointment is at stake;* and for this it is necessary to take bribes. But if the district officers themselves were to listen to no one's stories, but occasionally go in disguise, and see for themselves what goes on in the Tehseel," &c., &c., "then there would be a check to bribery, and spies would fear to tell untruths. In short, the district officers should act like the Sahib Collector of Boolundshuhur, and proclaim that whoever gives anything to Government servants," &c., &c., "will be subject to punishment in accordance with the rules of the Penal Code."

Under the heading "False Reports," this paper notices the native rumour concerning the requisition of Government for 108 human heads to sacrifice, in order to prevent war with the Russians. The editor thinks that such rebels ought to be severely punished, and those who believe such absurd reports should be even more severely punished, &c., &c.

* Sic.

The *Punjabee Ukhbar*, of the 27th of November, the *Mujmool Bharain*, of the 28th, the *Meerut Gazette*, of the 28th, the *Kaleid Ummed*, of the 28th, the *Karnama Hind*, of the 30th, the *Rohilkund Ukhbar*, of the 1st of December, and the *Ukmil-ool Ukhbar*, of the 3rd, do not call for especial notice.

The following vernacular newspapers have been examined in this Report, viz. :—

No.	NAME OF PAPER.	WHERE PUBLISHED.	DATE.	WHEN RECEIVED.
			1868.	1868.
1	<i>Rohilkund Ukhbar</i> , ...	Moradabad, ...	Novr. 21st	Novr. 25th
2	<i>Mujm-ool Bharain</i> , ...	Loodiana, ...	" 22nd	" 25th
3	<i>Kaleid Ummed</i> , ...	Lahore, ...	" 14th	" 26th
4	<i>Ditto</i> , ...	Ditto, ...	" 21st	" 26th
5	<i>Unjumun Hind</i> , ...	Lucknow, ...	" 21st	" 26th
6	<i>Karnama Hind</i> , ...	Ditto, ...	" 23rd	" 26th
7	<i>Sholatoor</i> , ...	Cawnpoor, ...	" 24th	" 27th
8	<i>Nusseem Jounpoor</i> , ...	Jounpoor, ...	" 24th	" 27th
9	<i>Ukmil-ool Ukhbar</i> , ...	Delhi, ...	" 25th	" 27th
10	<i>Oudh Ukhbar</i> , ...	Lucknow, ...	" 24th	" 28th
11	<i>Nujm-ool Ukhbar</i> , ...	Meerut, ...	" 25th	" 28th
12	<i>Oordoo Dehli Gazette</i> , ...	Agra, ...	" 28th	" 28th
13	<i>Gwalior Gazette</i> , ...	Gwalior, ...	" 15th	" 29th
14	<i>Allygurh Institute Gazette</i> , ...	Allygurh, ...	" 27th	" 29th
15	<i>Julwatoor</i> , ...	Meerut, ...	" 27th	" 30th
16	<i>Muir Gazette</i> , ...	Ditto, ...	" 27th	" 30th
17	<i>Malwa Ukhbar</i> , ...	Indore, ...	" 25th	Decr. 1st
18	<i>Moofeed-ool Anam</i> , ...	Futtehgurh, ...	" 26th	" 1st
19	<i>Koh-i-Noor</i> , ...	Lahore, ...	" 28th	" 1st
20	<i>Zea-ool Ukhbar</i> , ...	Delhi, ...	Decr. 1st	" 1st
21	<i>Sadiq-ool Ukhbar</i> , ...	Bhawulpoor, ...	Novr. 14th	" 2nd
22	<i>Ditto</i> , ...	Ditto, ...	" 21st	" 2nd
23	<i>Rahnoomai Punjab</i> , ...	Sealkote, ...	" 27th	" 2nd
24	<i>Unjumun Hind</i> , ...	Lucknow, ...	" 28th	" 2nd
25	<i>Ukhbar Alum</i> , ...	Meerut, ...	" 26th	" 3rd
26	<i>Punjabee Ukhbar</i> , ...	Lahore, ...	" 27th	" 3rd
27	<i>Mujm-ool Bharain</i> , ...	Loodiana, ...	" 28th	" 3rd
28	<i>Meerut Gazette</i> , ...	Meerut, ...	" 28th	" 3rd
29	<i>Kaleid Ummed</i> , ...	Lahore, ...	" 28th	" 3rd
30	<i>Karnama Hind</i> , ...	Lucknow, ...	" 30th	" 4th
31	<i>Ab-i-Hyat Hind</i> , ...	Agra, ...	Decr. 1st	" 4th
32	<i>Ukmil-ool Ukhbar</i> , ...	Delhi, ...	" 3rd	" 4th

(True translation.)

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